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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOREST SERVICE EXTENDS SPOTTED OWL COMMENT PERIOD

WASHINGTON, Sept. 9--The public will have additional time to comment on the Forest Service's final plan for the management of spotted owl habitat in the Pacific Northwest, George M. Leonard, associate chief of the U.S. Department of Agriculture agency announced today.

"Due to the complex nature of this subject and its potential impact on the economy and ecology of the region, we want to make certain that interested individuals have adequate time to develop and submit their comments," Leonard said.

The original deadline for comments was September 12, but comments will now be accepted until September 30.

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